Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-44 and add new claims 45-84.

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (New) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one base unit and a plurality of handheld response units communicating with said at least one base unit over at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said at least one base unit is adapted to send polling signals to said response units over said at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said response units are adapted to send response data to said at least one base unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user; and

said at least one communication link comprising at least one base transceiver at said at least one base unit and a plurality of response transceivers, each at one of said response units, wherein said at least one base transceiver and said response transceivers are adapted to communicate with a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, wherein said at least one base transceiver is adapted to send polling signals and said response transceivers are adapted to send data in response to the polling signals using time domain multiplexing;

wherein said at least one base unit is adapted to provide frequency hopping information to said response units so that said response units can respond to the polling signals, wherein said polling signals include an initial transmission having a seed packet and wherein said response units are adapted to receive said polling signals and to use the information contained in the seed packet of a particular polling signal in order to determine a hop frequency to send a response to that particular polling signal as a function of the information contained in the seed packet and as a function of an address assigned to the response unit, wherein at least some of said response units are arranged to send a response to a particular polling signal at different hop frequencies.

46. (New) The system of claim 45 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, said base transceivers being adapted to send polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

47. (New) The system of claim 46 wherein at least some of said base transceivers are adapted to transmit on common hop frequencies.

48. (New) The system of claim 45 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, wherein said plurality of base transceivers are adapted to transmit on separate hop frequencies.

49. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein said at least one base unit comprises a plurality of base units, each of said base transceivers at one of said base units.

50. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein said plurality of base units are adapted to operate from a common frequency hop table.

51. (New) The system of claim 45 comprising at least one base microcomputer at said at least one base unit and a plurality of response microcomputers, each at one of said response units.

52. (New) The system of claim 51 including a frequency hop table at said at least one base unit.

53. (New) The system of claim 52 wherein said response units are adapted to communicate with said at least one base transceiver without direct access to a said frequency hop table.

54. (New) The system of claim 45 wherein said polling signals further include a base transmission at a particular hop frequency, and wherein said slave units are adapted to use the information contained in the seed packet to determine the hop frequency of the base transmission.

55. (New) The system of claim 54 wherein the base transmission is adapted to send application data to the response units.

56. (New) The system of claim 54 wherein said at least one base transceiver comprising a plurality of base transceivers at said at least one base unit, said base transceivers being adapted to send polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

57. (New) The system of claim 56 wherein one of said plurality of base transceivers transmits said initial transmission and said plurality of base transceivers transmit the base transmission at the determined hop frequency.

58. (New) The system of claim 57 wherein the frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein the initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of the base transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.

59. (New) The system of claim 54 wherein said base transceivers transmitting on a common channel.

60. (New) The system of claim 54 wherein said plurality of response transceivers transmit at one or more hop frequencies.

61. (New) The system of claim 45 wherein the polling signals further include a base transmission, wherein the base transmission is adapted to send application data to the response units.

62. (New) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one master unit and a plurality of slave units communicating with said at least one master unit over at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said at least one master unit is adapted to send polling signals to said slave units over said at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said slave units are adapted to send data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals;

said at least one communication link comprising at least one master transceiver at said at least one master unit and a plurality of slave transceivers, each at one of said slave units;

wherein said at least one master transceiver and said slave transceivers are adapted to communicate with a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, wherein said at least one master transceiver is adapted to send polling signals and said slave transceivers are adapted to send data in response to the polling signals using time domain multiplexing;

wherein said at least one master unit is adapted to provide frequency hopping information to said slave units so that said slave units can respond to the polling signals, wherein said polling signals include an initial transmission having a seed packet and wherein said slave units are adapted to receive said polling signals and to use the information contained in the seed packet of a particular polling signal in order to determine a hop frequency to send a response to that particular polling signal as a function of the information contained in the seed packet and as a function of an address assigned to the slave unit, wherein at least some of said slave units are arranged to send a response to a particular polling signal at different hop frequencies;

wherein the initial transmissions comprise transmissions on multiple different hop frequencies according to a spread-spectrum protocol; and

wherein said slave transceivers are adapted to receive an initial transmission at a particular home frequency.

63. (New) The system of claim 62 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one master unit, said master transceivers being adapted to send polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

64. (New) The system of claim 63 wherein said master transceivers are adapted to transmit on common hop frequencies.

65. (New) The system of claim 62 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one master unit, wherein said plurality of master transceivers are adapted to transmit on separate hop frequencies.

66. (New) The system of claim 65 wherein said at least one master unit comprises a plurality of master units, each of said master transceivers at one of said master units.

67. (New) The system of claim 65 wherein said plurality of master units operate from a common frequency hop table.

68. (New) The system of claim 62 wherein said slave units comprise user response units and wherein said response units are adapted to send response data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user.

69. (New) The system of claim 62 wherein the polling signals further include a master transmission at a particular hop frequency, wherein the master transmission is adapted to send application data to said slave units.

70. (New) The system of claim 69 wherein the frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein the initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of the master transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.

71. (New) The system of claim 69 wherein said slave units are adapted to use the information contained in the seed packet to determine the particular hop frequency of the master transmission.

72. (New) The system of claim 62 wherein said slave units are adapted to send data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link at one or more hop frequencies.

73. (New) A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one master unit and a plurality of slave units communicating with said at least one master unit over at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said at least one master unit is adapted to send polling signals to said slave units over said at least one wireless communication link;

wherein said slave units are adapted to send data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals;

wherein said at least one communication link comprising at least one master transceiver at said at least one master unit and a plurality of slave transceivers, each at one of said slave units; and

wherein said at least one master transceiver and said slave transceivers are adapted to communicate with a spread-spectrum frequency hopping protocol, wherein said at least one master transceiver is adapted to send polling signals and said slave transceivers are adapted to send data in response to the polling signals using time domain multiplexing;

wherein said at least one master unit is adapted to provide frequency hopping information to said slave units so that said slave units can respond to the polling signals, wherein said polling signals include an initial transmission having a seed packet and wherein said slave units are adapted to receive said polling signals and to use the information contained in the seed packet of a particular polling signal in order to determine a hop frequency to send a response to that particular polling signal as a function of the information contained in the seed packet and as a function of an address assigned to the slave unit, wherein at least some of said slave units are arranged to send a response to a particular polling signal at different hop frequencies;

wherein the initial transmissions comprise transmissions on multiple different hop frequencies according to a spread-spectrum protocol;

wherein said slave transceivers are adapted to receive an initial transmission at a particular home frequency; and

wherein each of said slave units is adapted to dynamically move to a different particular home frequency if no polling signal is received within a period of time.

74. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one master unit, said master transceivers being adapted to send polling signals having a particular temporal relationship with each other.

75. (New) The system of claim 74 wherein said master transceivers transmitting at common hop frequencies.

76. (New) The system of claim 75 wherein one of said plurality of master transceivers sends the initial transmission having the seed packet to said slave units.

77. (New) The system of claim 76 wherein said plurality of master transceivers alternate sending the initial transmission.

78. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein said at least one master transceiver comprising a plurality of master transceivers at said at least one base unit, said plurality of master transceivers transmitting at different hop frequencies.

79. (New) The system of claim 78 wherein said at least one master unit comprises a plurality of master units, each of said master transceivers at one of said master units.

80. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein said slave units comprise user response units and wherein said response units are adapted to send response data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link in response to one of the polling signals, the response data being entered in the respective response unit by a user.

81. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein said slave units are adapted to send data to said at least one master unit over said at least one wireless communication link at one or more hop frequencies.

82. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein the polling signals further include a master transmission at a particular hop frequency, wherein the master transmission is adapted to send application data to said slave units.

83. (New) The system of claim 82 wherein said slave units are adapted to use the information contained in the seed packet to determine the particular hop frequency of the master transmission.

84. (New) The system of claim 82 wherein the frequency hopping protocol comprises a particular number of different frequency hops and wherein the initial transmission has a duration that is related to a duration of the master transmission as a function of the number of different frequency hops.